



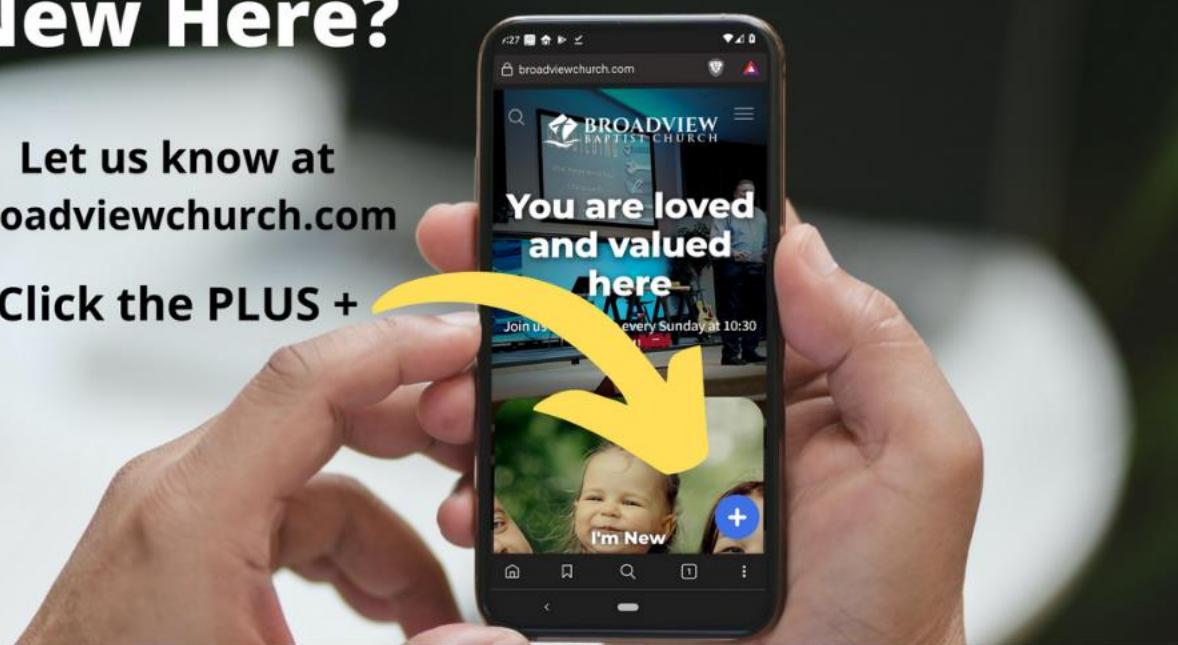
Witnesses to the Savior: Anna

Luke 2:21-35

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where in the **WORLD?**



JANUARY 8

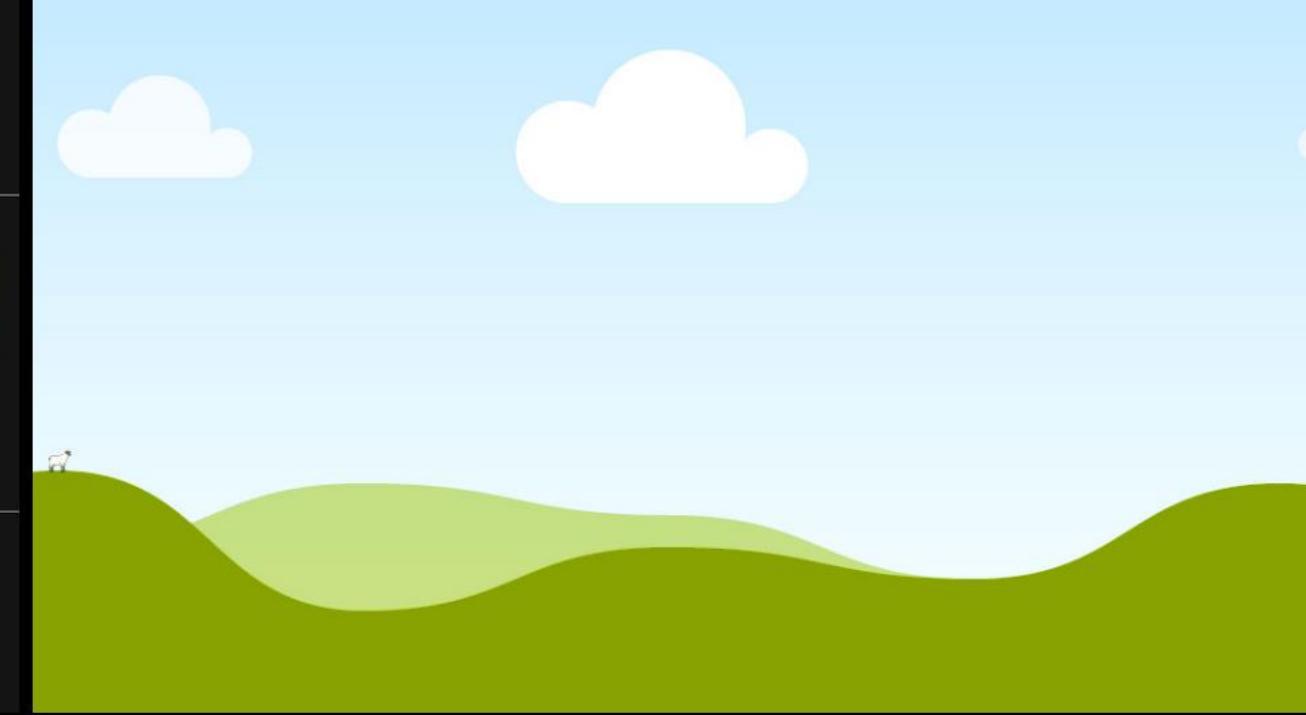
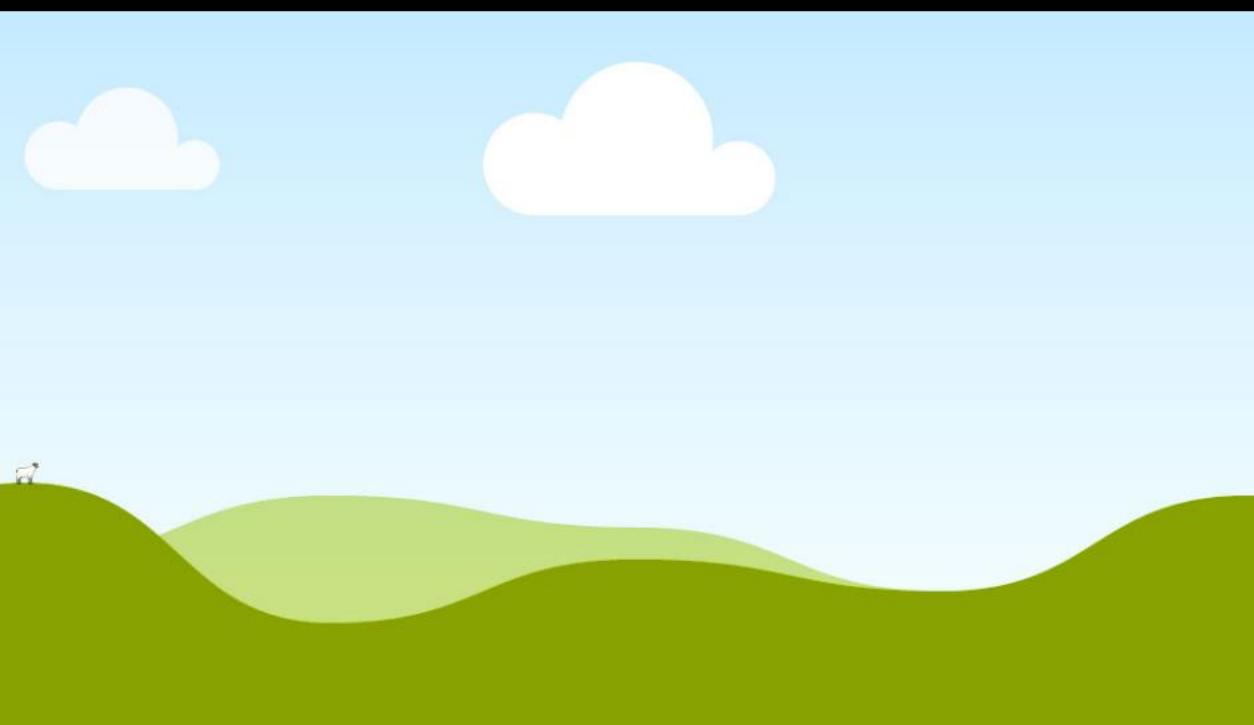
After the sermon:

1. Pastor David will provide some very important biblical instruction about the Lord's Supper.
2. We will have a song of response and an opportunity to prepare our hearts for the Lord's Supper.
3. Our Deacons will serve a Communion Cup to those who indicate they need one by raising their hand.

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP



We invite you to get a Communion Cup
from one of our Lord's Supper tables.



Pastoral Prayer

Ps. 62

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue robe and a red headscarf, holds a baby wrapped in a white cloth. She is looking towards the right with a joyful expression. A man in a brown robe and a white turban stands to her left, looking at her. In the background, several other people in traditional Middle Eastern clothing are standing in a dusty, open area.

Witnesses to the Savior: Anna

Luke 2:21-35



Written by Mark Lowry

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Answer: No

It's a fair question:
Did Mary know
who her son was?

Being 1st to hear ≠
1st to understand

Luke 1:29 - She was
deeply troubled by this
statement, wondering
what kind of greeting
this could be.

12 yrs. later, at the
Temple (cf. Luke
2:28-50).

One person
who DID
understand
was Anna

After Jesus' birth:

Mary - 40 days
of purification

Family - to
the Temple

Jesus -
1stborn
presented
to the Lord

Mary - Gave
offering

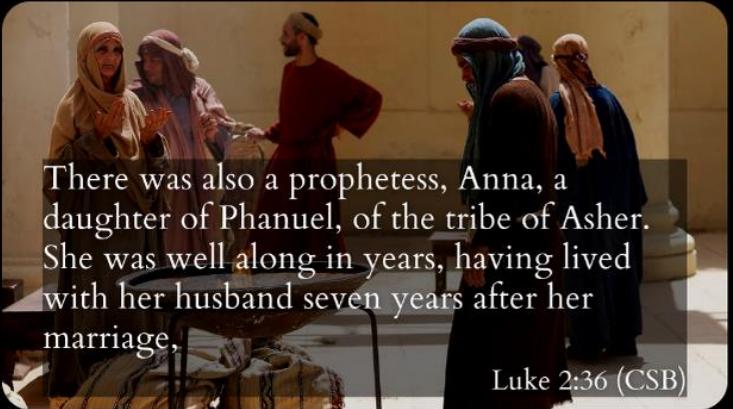
Simeon

Sees Jesus
as the
Messiah

Luke 2:28-32

He is prepared
to die

But Anna's
reaction is
different



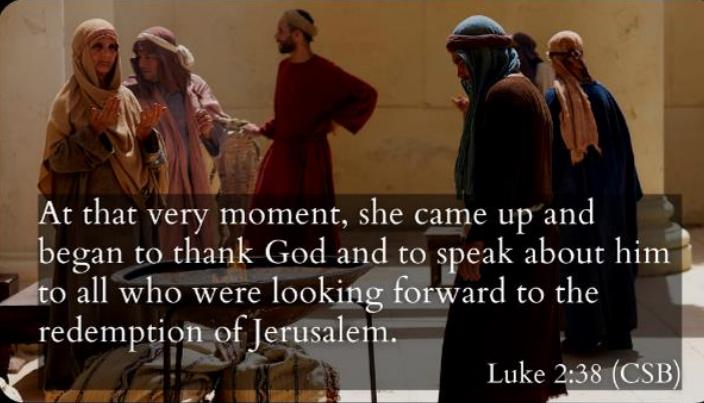
There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

Luke 2:36 (CSB)



and was a widow for eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers.

Luke 2:37 (CSB)



At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38 (CSB)

Namesake - "Hannah"

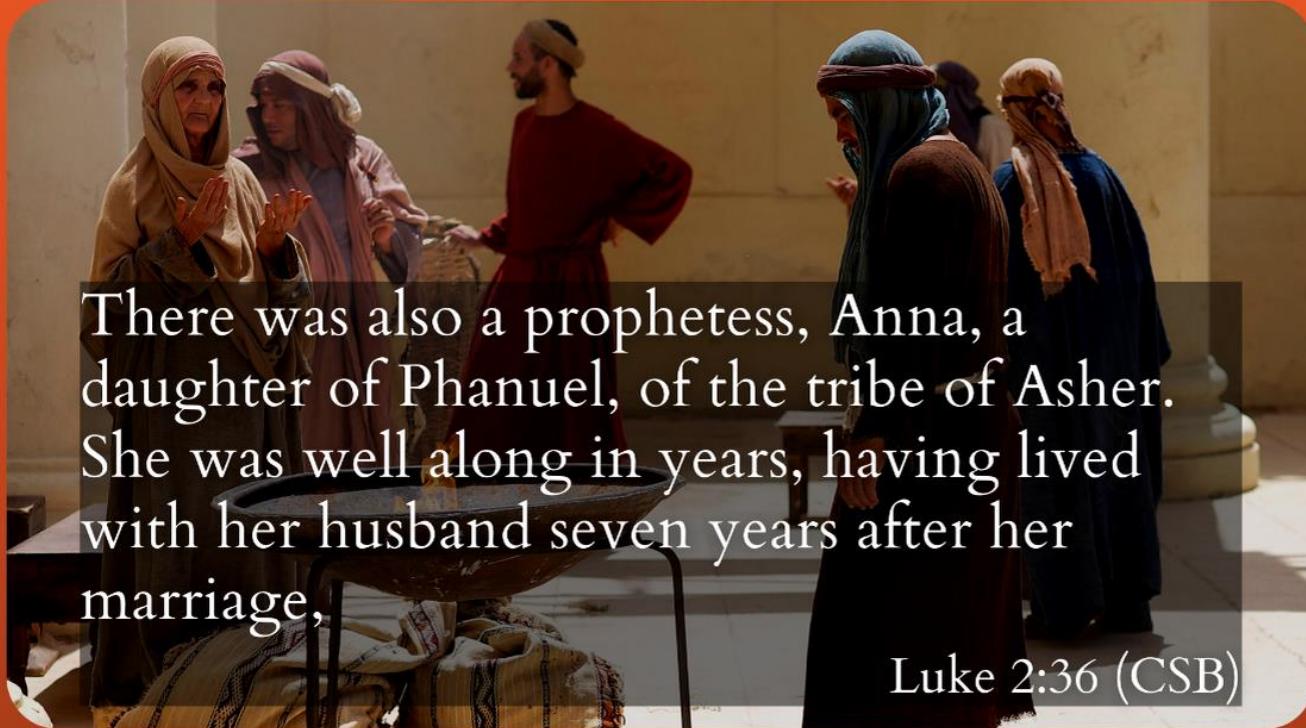
Samuel's mother in the OT

Prayed one of the greatest prayers in all Scripture (Samuel 2)

One of the earliest Hebrew poems in existence

A model of persistence in prayer and surrender to God's will

Anna in Luke 2 models this, too



There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

Luke 2:36 (CSB)

Only "prophetess" in NT

"prophetess"

Over 30 years
later, when the
Holy Spirit came:

What did a prophet
or prophetess do?

Women prophesied
about Jesus in Acts 2

Philip the evangelist (Acts
21) had 4 virgin daughters
who prophesied

But none are explicitly
called the title "prophetess."

Foretell the future?

Something else?

Anna will show us in a minute

Jewish tribes
usually aren't
important in the NT

Only 4 people in
the NT have
their tribe listed

"daughter of Phanuel,
of the tribe of Asher"

Here's the
amazing thing:

The Tribe of Asher never came
back from captivity in Babylon

It's considered one of
the lost tribes of Israel

Jewish tribes
not important
to us?

Anna's is
important
to Luke!

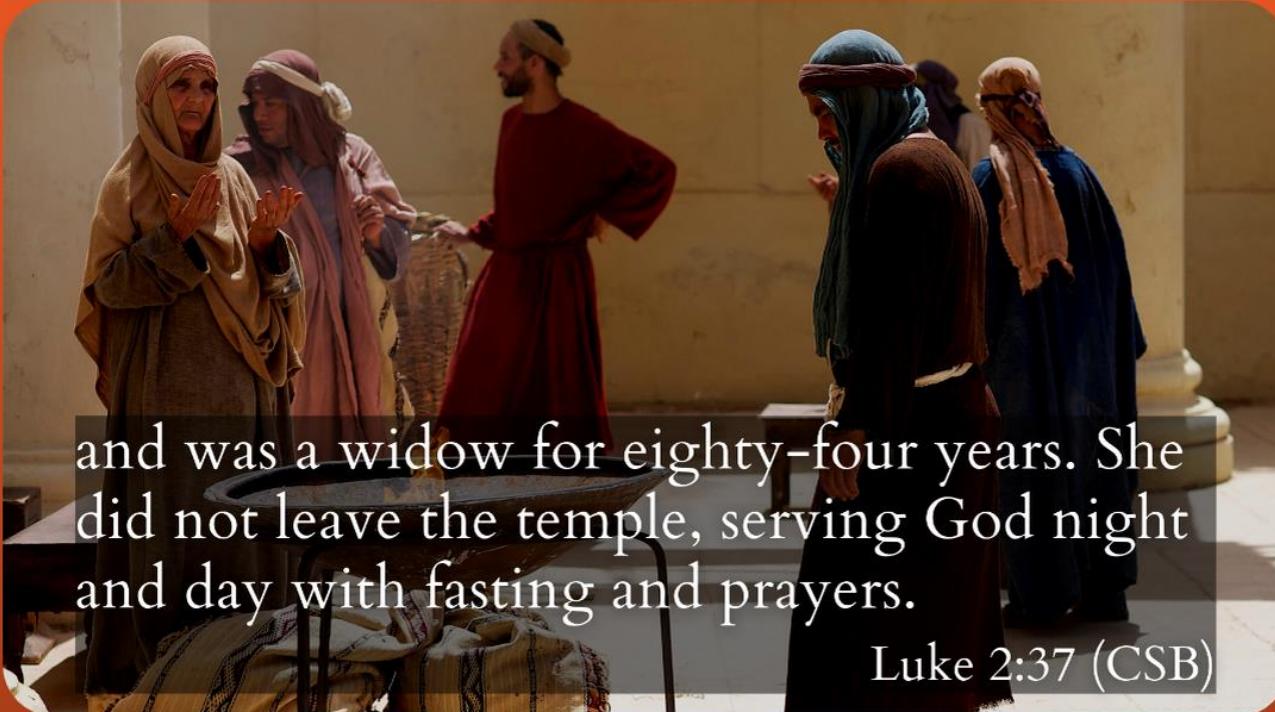
Not sure, but...

So why did
Luke tell us
her tribe?

Maybe it could explain her
vitality at such an old age

Moses said of the tribe of
Asher: "Your strength will
equal your days" (Deut. 33:25)

"She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,"



and was a widow for eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers.

Luke 2:37 (CSB)

"and was a
widow for
eighty-four
years."

Married at 14

Widowed at 21

Single until 105

"She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers"

Celibacy is a spiritual gift that God gives some Christians

The ideal example of a celibate Christian

When you are single, you can devote yourself to God:

I wish that all people were as I am. But each has his own gift from God, one person has this gift, another has that. I say to the unmarried and to widows: It is good for them if they remain as I am.

1 Corinthians 7:7-8 (CSB)

Because of the present distress, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is.... Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. However, if you do get married, you have not sinned, and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But such people will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

1 Corinthians 7:26-28 (CSB)

I want you to be without concerns. The unmarried man is concerned about the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. But the married man is concerned about the things of the world—how he may please his wife—and his interests are divided.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34a (CSB)

The unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the things of the world—how she may please her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:34b (CSB)

I am saying this for your own benefit, not to put a restraint on you, but to promote what is proper and so that you may be devoted to the Lord without distraction.

1 Corinthians 7:35 (CSB)

Now, the temple wasn't like church.

At some point in her life, Anna remained in the temple

After church, if anyone here tells me, "I want to stay here in this building for all my life,"

No.

You've got to go!

Because this BUILDING isn't the church

You are!

This BUILDING isn't the Temple of God

You are!

And so you ARE like Anna!

She never left the temple?

Neither do you. You ARE the temple.

It's the fasting and prayers.

THAT'S where the power
and movement of God is.

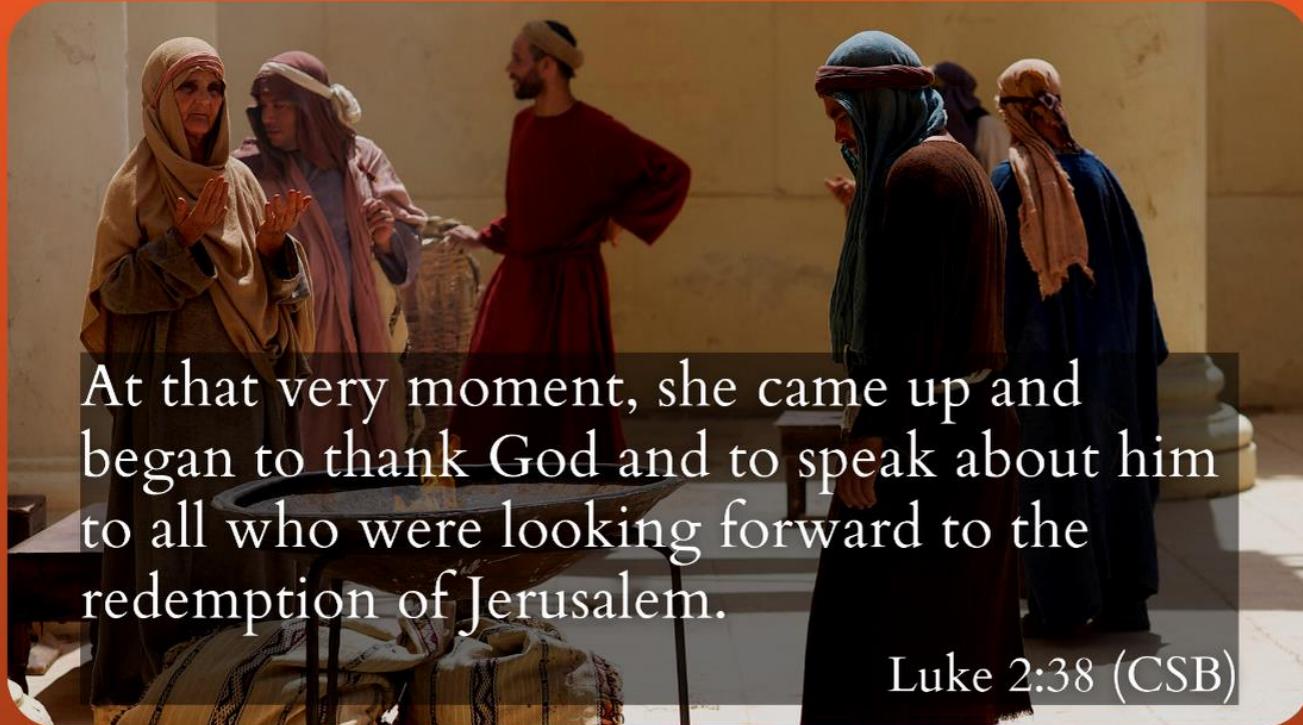
The never leaving the
temple isn't the part
of Anna that we need
to get better at.

If you've gotten
away from praying,
here's the solution:

Get back at it.

It's not difficult.

It's just a matter
of doing.



At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38 (CSB)

Simeon and Anna
make an interesting
story in Luke 2.

Simeon came up to
the temple that day,
but Anna LIVED there

Simeon wasn't called
a prophet, but he
prophesied about
Jesus.

Anna was called a
prophetess, but she
gave thanks about
Jesus.

But here's the
biggest difference
between Simeon
and Anna:

When Simeon saw Jesus,
he said, "I can die now."

But when 105-year-old
Anna saw Jesus, she said,
"I've got to tell somebody."

This is what a prophet or prophetess does:

Reveal truths usually hidden

Anna recognizes who this Child is.

She tells the people of Jerusalem about His significance.

Amos 3:7 - "Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plans to his servants the prophets."

In Acts 2, the people there didn't understand what was happening.

The men and women who prophesied told the crowd about Jesus,

and how God's Spirit had come upon them that day.

Can you imagine?

Waiting for the
Messiah to come?

Being a
faithful Jew
on that day,

Waiting for Jerusalem
to be redeemed?

Waiting for God to
fulfill His promises?

You go into the temple,

to worship God
as you have done
countless times
before.

You are praying
that God might
bring His salvation.

You've seen her many times before.

It seems like she's always at the temple.

But this time, something's different.

And there's Anna:

Anna tells you that God's salvation has come!

As you look around to see, she says, "Right HERE!"

"THIS baby will bring God's salvation to us!"

"This baby is Yahweh is salvation!"

So, what do you do?

Do you believe the word
of this old woman?

A woman so dedicated to
God that she remained
single for over 8 decades?

Or do you think, "Oh, she's
probably just senile," and go about
your worship of God at the temple?

You and I today face
the same issue:

Do we dismiss these words
as the foolish ramblings of
ancient superstitious people?

Or will you say, "I believe"?

Prayer of faith

Brief reflections on 1 Cor. 11

Before we partake of the Lord's Supper,
we will now have a time of response to God.

The altar is open for prayer.

If you have a spiritual decision to make or
need prayer, you may come speak with
Pastor David now or after the service.

Invitation

**As we prepare to take the Lord's Supper,
please be seated.**

**If you need a Communion Cup, please raise
your hand and a Deacon will serve you.**

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (CSB)

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 (CSB)

Don't neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.

Hebrews 13:16 (CSB)

Generosity Scripture / Closing